AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1208 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1934 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL 24, NO. 23

Let us first understand the facts, and then we may seek the cause.—Aristotle.

Editorials

Fake Compensation Insurance

The necessity for State owned and operated workmen's compensation insurance funds for the adequate protection of men and women killed and injured in industry by the neglect of employers is once again brought into the spotlight in connection with the case of a laborer to whom the New York Bureau of Workmen's Compensation had given an award of $2,000 for injuries, in accordance with the workmen's compensation law. When he claimed the award from the insurance company he was informed that the contractor had paid no premium on the policy and that it had been canceled.

The investigation by District Attorney Geoghan of Brooklyn revealed the existence of an insurance ring which had issued fake insurance policies to small contractors and victimized numbers of injured workers. The scheme was worked by an architect in cooperation with contractors who desired to avoid the expense of carrying compulsory compensation insurance to indemnify employees for injuries on their construction projects. The plot uncovered by the District Attorney's office indicates the extent to which degenerate employers and their associates in the professional classes will sink in the development and promotion of supposititious devices to defraud working men and women of their rights under the law.

The architect rented for a small amount a workmen's compensation insurance policy purporting to be made out to a general contractor. Confronted with inspectors who asked for the policy required under the State law, the contractors exhibited the "policy" provided by the architect, explaining that they had sublet the construction job from the general contractor named in the policy. In reality the policy was worthless and the names of the contractors were fictitious.

So far six injured workers have been discovered who were victimized by the fake insurance ring, with additional victims piling up as the investigation proceeds. The architect who provided the fake policies pleaded guilty to petty larceny. The authorities say it will not be so easy to penalize the contractors who evidently cooperated with him in putting over the fraud.

In the meantime it appears that it will be very difficult for the injured workers to secure the compensation to which they are entitled under the State law. Of course the architect can be jailed for larceny and the contractors can be penalized if convicted. But the penalization of both groups will not pay the awards of which the employes have been defrauded.

The whole unsavory mess would have been avoided by giving the New York State Workmen's Compensation Insurance Fund a monopoly of writing compensation insurance. This would bar activities of insurance rackets designed to defraud the workers of the modest sums which society declares they are entitled to receive for having their bodies mutilated because of the neglect and refusal of employers to install up-to-date protective devices and methods to safeguard their employes against fatal and non-fatal accidents.

Protect The Children

The Food and Drug Administration of the Federal Department of Agriculture deserves credit for its work in ferreting out the degenerate business men who for months have been surreptitiously selling bootleg intoxicants to children in the form of cheap liquor candy.

In December the authorities received complaints from cities as far west as Chicago and as far south as Baltimore that the candy was being sold in large quantities in the form of penny bonbons. Teachers reported that children who had eaten the stuff during school recesses returned to their classes in a semi-stupor. Most of the dope was sold by push cart vendors in crowded sections of the larger cities.

Chemical examination revealed that in each bonbon there was about a teaspoonful of liquid which contained more than 20 per cent of bootleg alcohol diluted with various kinds of flavoring. Federal Drug Administration authorities decided the dope was distributed from a common source located in Greater New York. Intensive investigation revealed that the candy was received their supplies in alleys after ordering them by telephone. Raids were made and thousands of pounds of bonbons were seized by Federal and local authorities. Over one hundred store keepers and peddlers were arrested in New York City alone for selling the stuff. Finally the trail led to the headquarters of the liquor candy ring in Brooklyn and the case was presented to the Federal Grand Jury.

These business miscreants, who undertake to dope children in the schools with intoxicating liquor, should receive the limit of the law for such nefarious practices.

In this connection it will not be amiss to point out that if there is one bureau in the Federal Government which should not be limited by so-called economy appropriations it is the Food and Drug Administration of the Department of Agriculture, whose main work is protecting all our people from the subversive activities of certain types of business men whose greed for profit impels them to organize into groups for the sole purpose of unloading impure, poisonous and adulterated food and drugs on a helpless public.

AFL SUPPORT PLEDGED RUBBER WORKERS UNION

Morrison Tells Akron Mass Meeting Shorter Hours and Higher Wages Depend on Strong Labor Organization — Cites Benefits of NRA.

Akron, Ohio.—"The American Federation of Labor is squarely behind you in your fight to obtain what you are entitled to receive," declared Frank Morrison, secretary of the Federation, in an address to the delegates to the convention of the United Rubber Council here. The Council, consisting of delegates from tire and rubber factory unions from Akron and many other sections of the United States, was convened to set up machinery for dealing collectively with employers.

10,000 In Parade

The convention was given a hearty send off by a magnificent parade participated in by rubber workers' unions and all of the three score other labor unions in Summit County. It was estimated that at least 10,000 workers marched in the scorching sun as their ranks in the rising tide of organization among the thousands of employes of Akron's tire and rubber factories, who are marching in victory under the banner of the United Automobile Workers' Federal Labor Unions, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

The largest delegations were from the Goodyear, Goodrich and Firestone plants, with more than 1,000 marchers from each union. Employes of the India Tire and Rubber Company were conspicuous, claiming the first 100 per cent union shop, supplied color to the demonstration by carrying tires over their shoulders.

Morrison Addresses Mass Meeting

The parade ended in a mass meeting at the armory, where the visiting delegates after the invocation by Rev. M. A. Wagner, pastor of the Arlington Street United Brethren church, were welcomed to the city by Frank Patino, president of the Summit County Central Labor Union, and Attorney Stanley Denlinger.

Following the welcoming speeches, Mr. Morrison addressed the rally.

"For years you have been in desire to have the rubber workers organize," he said.

"The NRA has given us assistance in forming at last an effective organization, which is assisted will eventually include 100 per cent of the workers."

Objectives of the union should be shorter hours and more pay, the speaker asserted. "Your success in gaining these objectives depends upon yourselves," he told the workers. He cited numerous instances of gains secured through unionization, particularly in the printing industry. Mr. Morrison has been a member of the typographical union for more than 48 years.

Enact Wagner Bill

He urged immediate passage of the Wagner bill as a step toward strengthening the NRA, adding:

"The chamber of commerce and the Automobile Manufacturers association are doing their best to defeat the bill. We can tell how important it is by the fury of their attack against it.

Employers' Opposition Weakened

"Despite their opposition we have made progress. We have noted a gradual loosening of the stranglehold that vested interests have had on our country's welfare.

A. F. of L. Support Pledged

"If the employers would cooperate with the employes in an honest effort to support the NRA, it would hasten the day when millions of unemployed could return to work and the nation's buying power would be restored."

Morrison concluded his address with the assurance to the rubber workers that "The American Federation of Labor is squarely behind you in your fight to obtain what you are entitled to receive."

AUTO BUILDERS FEAR WAGNER LABOR BILL

Urge Roosevelt to Stop Legislation Designed to Prevent Them from Using Coercive Methods to Block Effective Trade Union Organization.

Washington.—Even the Senate Committee on Education and Labor's revised version of the Wagner Labor Disputes Bill inspired fear in the hearts of the anti-union bosses who dominate the automobile industry and refuse to permit their employes to exercise the statutory rights conferred upon them by Section 7-A of the National Industrial Recovery Act.

Four of these subversive motor lords, representing the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, expressed this fear at a White House conference in which they urged the President not to "impair" the general improvement in labor relations by the "creation of new controversies out of new legislative interpretations at this time."

This was understood to mean that the group opposed the Wagner Bill, which a recent legislative conference at the White House was reported as having placed on the list of urgent legislation for this session of Congress.

The delegation consisted of Alvan Macauley, president of the chamber and of the Packard Motor Car Company; Roy D. Chapin, president of the Hudson Motor Company; Walter P. Chrysler and Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., of the General Motors Corporation.

The new Wagner Bill undertakes to place on a firmer basis the provision in the labor section of the National Recovery Act prohibiting employers from interfering with the right of their employes to form labor organizations and designate representatives of their own choosing for collective bargaining purposes.

Legalizing this inherent right upsets the policy of coercion hitherto used by the automobile manufacturers to keep their employes out of effective trade unions.

Referring to the Wagner measure as "pending labor legislation," the automobile lords gave this account of their conference with Roosevelt:

"It was the opinion of the committee that any legislation which might confuse the existing labor situation and precipitate further waves of labor disputes, resulting in conflicts which will seriously affect the course of business in the next months, would be undesirable.

"The spokesmen for the automobile industry were strongly of the opinion that the efforts of industry to make progress toward the stabilization of employment, the general improvement of labor relations and like measures should not be impaired by the creation of new controversies out of new legislative interpretations at this time."

ANTI-UNION STEEL BOSSES START COMMUNIST BOGEY

Pittsburgh, Pa.—The officials of the anti-union steel companies are up to their old tricks of warning their employes that the strike movement in the industry is fomented by communists and other radicals instead of by wide-spread discontent with the refusal to recognize organized labor in negotiating agreements covering hours, wages and labor conditions.

In an appeal to the steel workers here for careful consideration, L. Ludlow Hughes, president of the Carnegie Steel Company, charged that "a radical rank-and-file party" within the organized Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers was engineering the threatened strike.

In a statement jointly signed by W. A. Irwin, president of the United States Steel Corporation, he told the workers that the strike program "grows out of a combination of the radical element of the Amalgamated with the Communist union."

Artificial Flower Wage Chiseler Loses Blue Eagle

Washington.—Another wage chiseler and general violator of the labor provisions of fair competition codes felt the heavy hand of government when General Hugh S. Johnson, Recovery Administrator, ordered the Blue Eagle surrendered by the American Artificial Flower Company, 205 East 104th street, New York City.

Officials of the Artificial Flower and Feather Code Authority recommended revocation of the Blue Eagle on the ground that it had found the company "openly defiant and violating the code" by refusing its employes overtime and without permission of the Code Authority, by working employes longer than the hours the wages specified for overtime by the code, and by employing both apprentices and home-workers in excess of the number specified by the code.

The National Compliance Board affirmed the recommendation of the Code Authority, and General Johnson thereupon ordered the concern to surrender all NRA insignia in its possession and refrain from using the Blue Eagle in its plants, stores, branches and in advertising and in any other manner whatsoever."

Licorice Workers Given 40 Hours, 40 Cents an Hour

Washington.—General Hugh S. Johnson, Recovery Administrator, approved the fair competition code for the licorice industry, which establishes a basic maximum work week of 40 hours, and minimum wages of 40 cents an hour. The code does not mean that employes will receive minimum weekly earnings of $16 for 40 cents is a minimum wage rate. If an employe works 40 hours he will be paid $16 for the week's work. If the employer imposes a 50-hour week from time to time, the employe will receive 25 per cent less for the week's work, or $12.

OIL WORKERS CONTRACT COMMENDED BY SINCLAIR

Claims Agreement Sets Up New Basis of Labor Relations in Accordance with Collective Bargaining Provision of Labor Section of the Recovery Act.

Washington.—The union shop agreement between the Sinclair Consolidated Oil Corporation and its affiliated companies and the International Association of Oil Field, Gas Well and Refinery Workers of America was described as a forward step in the determination of labor relations by Harry F. Sinclair, president of the Corporation.

Pointing out that officials of the oil workers' union will represent the members in collective bargaining negotiations with the management, Mr. Sinclair said this was in conformity with Section 7-A of the National Industrial Recovery Act. He praised the method set forth in the agreement for settling labor disputes without either strikes or lockouts, and said he believed the pact would place industrial relations on a basis of "friendly dealing" instead of an "armed truce."

Mr. Sinclair's statement follows:

Union Represents Employes

"A new basis of labor relations is embodied in the agreement announced between the Sinclair companies and the International Association of Oil Field, Gas Well and Refinery Workers. In this agreement the same conduct of business between employer and employee. The association is to represent the members in collective bargaining in accordance with the provisions of the National Recovery Act. I believe that this agreement will work out to the benefit as employers as well as to the advantage of the employes.

Prejudice Eliminated

"In arriving at this understanding, what are usually considered irreconcilable conflicts have presented no difficulty because there has been confidence on both sides in the fairness and good faith of the other. We started out by eliminating prejudice and found the other side willing to give up the use of the deadly weapon of industrial warfare when the door was opened for collective bargaining and mutual recognition of the rights and responsibilities of all concerned.

Strikes Are Unnecessary

"In this agreement procedure is established for the settlement without strikes of any disputes that cannot be settled by direct negotiation. In this respect the agreement is unique. If arbitration is necessary, the situation as it takes is to be finally determined by the President of the American Federation of Labor, Mr. William Green.

"Should this procedure become a generally adopted formula for industrial relations, the present situation of industrial warfare with its heavy toll upon life and property would cease.

Praises Union Officials

"I want to acknowledge the co-operation and good understanding I have enjoyed with President William Green of the American Federation of Labor and the International officials.

Friendly Dealing Instead of Armed Truce

"I am very hopeful that we have taken in laying the cornerstone of what I believe is a new foundation, the fundamental of which is that industrial relations can be put on a basis of friendly dealing instead of partaking of the nature of an armed truce."

LAKE TUGMEN REFUSE EMPLOYERS' WAGE PACT

Insist on 40-Hour Week Instead of 12-Hour Shifts

Cleveland, Ohio.—A general tie-up of Great Lakes tugs, hampering the movement of bulk freighters at some ports, was in the making as union tugmen voted to accept a plan of settling a wage dispute with their employers, proposed by a Federal arbitrator.

Tugmen here, in Buffalo, and several other ports refused to continue on their jobs, pending the outcome of the arbitration proceedings. Tugmen in other ports were expected to take similar action.

The wage dispute settlement plan proposed by the arbitrator, H. Gilbert Prancke, was based on an offer by the Great Lakes Towing Company, and called for a guarantee of 200 work days a year, with minimum pay of $1,800 and $1,900 a year, respectively, for regular licensed tugmen and firemen.

The demands of the tugmen were for an eight-hour day instead of the present 12-hour shifts; the 1929 wage scale; extension of an agreement to cover all the company's vessels; one day off a week; elimination of "call time," and a minimum pay of $125 monthly for firemen and linemen.

FURRIERS SUPPLIES CODE GETS 40 TO 44 HOUR WEEK

Washington.—Although the NRA was confronted with the indisputable fact that there are more than 10,000,000 able-bodied adults permanently unemployed, approval was given to the 40-hour week principle when extended to 44 hours "in cases of necessity," to the 500 workers employed in the furriers supplies trade. The imposition of the added four hours is softened by the proviso that the overtime shall be paid for at the rate of time and a half. The minimum rates of pay—not the minimum wages as usually—must be $15 a week or 37½ cents an hour.

Specific provision is made for the granting of vacations with pay. It is also provided that no one who has been regularly employed in the establishment for one year may be discharged without two weeks' notice, and that no one who has been employed for two years or more shall be discharged without one month's notice. The code pays no attention to what is going to happen to the employes after they are fired.

GREEN PRAISES UNION PACT WITH SINCLAIR

Says It Is an Industrial Peace Treaty Which Protects Both Workers and Employers Alike.

Washington.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, today commended the union shop agreement signed by Harry F. Sinclair, president of the Consolidated Oil Corporation, which controls the Sinclair oil companies, and Harvey C. Fremming, president of the International Association of Oil Field, Gas Well and Refinery Workers of America.

Pointing out that it is the first agreement of its kind in the oil industry, he said it removes the primary cause of most labor conflicts between employer and employee and urged every employer of labor to study its provisions.

Mr. Green's statement was as follows:

Justice Without Strikes

"The agreement is a treaty of industrial peace which I thoroughly approve. It recognizes the rights and obligations of both parties and provides machinery for the settlement of disputes in such a manner as to secure justice for the workers without compelling them to resort to strikes.

"Heretofore the worker has been forced to resort to militancy because that was the only way to obtain a hearing before a fair tribunal. The agreement establishing a procedure for the settlement of controversies removes the fundamental cause of most labor conflicts.

"This is the first agreement of its kind and in my opinion marks a new era in labor relations between the employer and employed. H. F. Sinclair and I, with H. C. Fremming, president, and R. H. Stickel of the International Association of Oil Field, Gas Well and Refinery Workers, have been in collaboration for weeks in its formulation.

Equal Voice in Arbitration

"The employer is protected against unreasonable demands; labor is assured that it can secure a hearing on both major and minor issues and get a just decision. The worker is represented by the president of the American Federation of Labor and has an equal voice with the employer in setting up the method of arbitration in the event arbitration should become necessary in the future.

"Another important feature of the agreement is that it provides a sound basis for the settlement of disputes between the employer and the worker without calling on outside parties for assistance. After all, the people most concerned should handle their own affairs and make their own rules of procedure.

Model Industrial Relations Contract

"I shall do all in my power to make successful this agreement to promote better relations between the employer and employee. The contract is worthy of study by every employer and worker in our country.

"If employee scales announced by the Sinclair companies are fair and are acceptable to the worker."

SINCLAIR UNION SHOP PACT PLEASES STICKEL

Washington.—The union shop agreement between the Sinclair Consolidated Oil Corporation and affiliated companies and the International Association of Oil Field, Gas Well and Refinery Workers of America, was highly commended by R. H. Stickel of the International Association, who, with Harvey C. Fremming, president of the Association, and William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, represented the oil workers in the negotiations which resulted in the agreement. Mr. Stickel said:

"With the signing of our national agreement with the Sinclair companies, labor in the oil industry can feel for the first time that it has gained the objective for which it has been striving. This objective is the assurance of its right to be heard and of a fair decision on its demands. There are the main things for which labor everywhere is fighting. We are particularly fortunate in gaining them without a fight. The agreement represents collective bargaining at its best."

J. L. WINES, GARMENT WORKERS' OFFICIAL, DIES

New York.—Jacob L. Wines, general secretary-treasurer of the United Garment Workers of America, died at his home here at the age of 49. He succumbed to an attack of pneumonia, which he contracted a few days before the end came.

Mr. Wines was appointed general organizer of the United Garment Workers of America in 1918, and during the next seven years he traveled extensively in all parts of the United States.

He was born at St. Joseph, Mo., and attended public schools in that city. In 1906 he became a garment cutter and joined Local 104 in St. Joseph. His first official position was that of secretary of the Missouri State Federation of Labor. He held that post until 1915, when he was appointed general organizer of the United Garment Workers.

Mr. Wines was elected to the general executive board of this organization in 1922, and since 1928 he had been general secretary-treasurer. He was active on the Cotton Garment Industry Code Board, and for many years was a delegate to the annual conventions of the American Federation of Labor, where he performed valuable committee work.

He was associate editor of The Garment Worker, the weekly official publication of the United Garment Workers.

Mr. Wines is survived by his widow and a son, Wilbur Wines.

Labor Representation Ban In Furnace Code Authority

Washington.—The personnel of the Code Authority for the Industrial Furnace Manufacturing Industry made public by the National Recovery Administration, is composed of five members, all of whom are officials of companies engaged in the manufacture of furnaces. Despite the fact that the Authority will enforce the labor sections of the code, the NRA did not deem it proper for representatives of the workers to participate in the administration.

SINCLAIR SIGNS UNION PACT WITH OIL WORKERS

National Agreement Provides for Settlement of Labor Disputes Without Strikes or Lockouts.

Washington.—Harry F. Sinclair, chairman of the Sinclair Consolidated Oil Corporation, and Harvey C. Fremming, president of the International Association of Oil Field, Gas Well and Refinery Workers of America, signed an agreement, covering for one year, recognizing the union for all of the companies controlled by the Oil Corporation.

The pact was completed after several months of conferences between Mr. Sinclair, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, and President Fremming and R. H. Stickel of the International Association. It covers some 15,000 men now working in development, production, pipe line operation and refining carried on by the Consolidated Oil Corporation, Sinclair Refining Company, Sinclair Prairie Oil Company, Sinclair Prairie Oil Marketing Company, Sinclair Prairie Pipe Line Company and Rio Grande Company. Joint agreements with the Indiana Company were made by Mr. Green and Mr. Sinclair.

First National Agreement

The agreement for union recognition is said to be the first on a national scale signed by a large oil company with an independent union, the oil workers having been hitherto dominated by the monopolistic policy of the Standard Oil Co., established, fostered, financed and controlled by anti-labor corporation officials for the purpose of preventing employes from enrolling in bona fide trade unions.

An outstanding feature of the agreement is the machinery established for the settlement of labor disputes without strikes or lockouts, with final adjustment referred to the chief executive of the Consolidated Oil Corporation and the chief executive of the American Federation of Labor, whose decision shall be binding upon both parties. Provision is also made for the check-off system in labor disputes where agreed to by the employee and the employer.

The wage schedule makes special provision for increasing the pay of workers doing so-called "common labor."

Strikes and Lockouts Banned

An official summary of the provisions of the agreement providing for the adjustment of labor disputes follows:

"The agreement provides that there shall be no cessation of work through strikes or lockouts during the term of this agreement, which is for one year from June 1. All grievances and disputes are to be taken up in the first instance with the immediate superior of the employee. If settlement is not arrived at, workers' committees have the right to take the matter up with the company superintendent locally in charge. In the event that further settlement is not reached by such conference, the chief executive officer of the association shall have the right to confer with the chairman of the executive committee of the Consolidated Oil Corporation. The above procedure applies to local disputes and grievances.

Arbitration Machinery

"In the event any dispute or disagreement arises as to wages or of a general character affecting a large number of employes, and cannot be to be referred for settlement to the chief executive officer of the association and the chief executive of the association. In the event that they are unable to arrive at a settlement, the dispute is to be referred to the chief executive officer of Consolidated Oil Corporation and the chief executive of the American Federation of Labor. If they are unable to effect a settlement of such a dispute, 'they shall agree upon a method and machinery of arbitration for the settlement of such dispute or grievance,' the award to be binding upon both parties."

No Physical Examinations

In regard to the rules governing employes the official summary says:

"Other provisions of the agreement provide that the employer under the employer will exercise due regard for length of service, taking into account ability and efficiency.

"A minimum of three hours' pay is to be paid to employes who are called for duty outside of working hours.

"Employes are not required as a condition of employment, in other than exceptional cases, to submit to a physical examination by a physician in the pay of the employer but may furnish a certificate of current date from any reputable physician.

Check-Off System

"Upon receipt of written request by any employee, the employer agrees to deduct monthly dues assessed by the association from the regular monthly dues as fixed by the local unions.

"Employes shall not be discharged on account of accidents unless it appears that the accident was caused by negligent, carelessness or malicious intent.

"In cases where an employee reports to his regular place of employment and there is instructed to report elsewhere transportation shall be supplied by the employer or compensated for.

Vacations With Pay

"Vacations of one week with pay after one year's service, and two weeks after four years' service are provided for.

"Where shift men are required to work overtime the failure of relief men to appear such overtime is to be paid for on the regular hourly basis, but in no case shall overtime be paid for on the basis of time and one-half.

"Daylight employes other than shift men are to be paid time and one-half for work on Sundays and holidays."

GREEN URGES 30-HOUR LAW FOR IDLE RELIEF

Visions Shorter Work Week Strikes if Congress Fails to Enact Connery Bill to Make Jobs for Unemployed.

Chicago, Ill.—The paramount necessity for the prompt enactment of the Thirty-Hour Week Bill now before the United States Congress was stressed by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in an address at the convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union here.

The 10,000,000 still unemployed, after a summer respite, he asserted, would be "the chief economic stumbling block in the path of general recovery" next winter. Declaring the 30-hour week law "the only solution," he said:

"If Congress refuses to enact the 30-hour law and we fail to secure it through collective bargaining, there will be only one avenue left to bring it about and that would be strikes."

Organized labor's philosophy, Mr. Green told the delegates, is "to provide a more equitable distribution of the wealth of the nation."

Its aims, he added, "are abolition of unemployment, wage increases accompanied by reduction of hours of labor, old age pension laws, unemployment insurance, abolition of the sweatshop, and equal hours and equal pay for women when they do the same work as men."

Only through organization of workers and collective bargaining, he warned could labor hope to achieve these aims.

While the Recovery Act had helped workers by recognizing the right to collective bargaining, he said that the act was "in need of some revision."

R. L. REEVES, LABOR UNION OFFICIAL, DIES

Detroit, Mich.—R. L. Reeves, secretary of the Executive Board of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America, died here. He was also editor of the Motorman, Conductor and Motor Coach Operator, the official monthly journal of the Association.

TOLEDO ELECTRIC UNION WINS BIG PAY INCREASE

Agreement Covers All Employes, Including Those Not Union Members

Toledo, Ohio.—Threatened with a 100 per cent strike of its employes coupled with a general sympathetic strike of 163 local affiliates of the American Federation of Labor, the officials of the Toledo Edison Company granted a 20 per cent pay increase and other terms regarded as a victory for organized labor by the Electrical Workers' Union.

In 1932 the Edison company cut the pay of its employes 20 per cent. The cuts were restored as of June 1 for one year. The five-day week, established prior to the negotiations, will remain.

Union Recognition

A substantial form of union recognition was included in the agreement. While it does not provide for a closed shop, it approximates that demand by stipulating that the union contract shall cover all the 900 employes, even those not members of the union. The company also agreed to give preference to union men in taking on additional employes.

There can be no strikes or lockouts when a dispute arises as to the terms of the contract. The machinery for handling such disputes consists of direct negotiations with the management from each side with provision for selection of a neutral arbitrator to make a decision if necessary.

INLAND STEEL COMPANY FOMENTS STRIKE SPIRIT

Chicago.—Officials of the Inland Steel Company here have fomented the strike spirit among their employes by refusing to recognize the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers.

The refusal was in answer to a letter sent to the company by the union. Notice of the company's stand was posted on the bulletin boards of the plants at Indiana Harbor, Ind. It was signed by H. R. De Hoff, general manager, and said:

"We cannot make a contract with any labor organization that would in any way interfere with the freedom of our employes."

PREVAILING WAGE CASE WON BY NEW YORK CITY

New York.—The city of New York won its first wage case in more than 15 years in Brooklyn Supreme Court when Justice Hugo Rosalsky held that the prevailing wage rate for machinists in city employ between 1926 and 1932, inclusive, was $13.20 a day. The machinists claimed, $13.30 a day. The ruling saves the city $17,500.

Witnesses for the machinists, mainly labor leaders, testified that the wage rate in the building trades, the highest scale-wage group, was $12.20 a day for machinists during the seven-year period.

Actually, one machinist was involved in the case. He sought $6,000 from the city for the $2.20 difference he claimed was due him between what the city paid and what he felt he should have received. However, an agreement was made before the trial whereby the decision was to be binding in the cases of 148 other machinists who had filed similar actions against the city. The machinists do general maintenance work in city departments.

Officials of the city concern testified that during the same period they had paid skilled workers of the class in question from $6 to $7 a day.

The $11 a day prevailing wage rate was fixed by the budget director after the Finance Department's Bureau of Prevailing Rates had made a study and reported this wage as proper.

STEEL BARONS FORCE STRIKE, GREEN SAYS

Chicago, Ill.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, conferred here with 40 representatives of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers throughout this district.

The delegates reported that 50,000 steel workers from 24 crafts had been organized.

Mr. Green said that the right to hold secret elections to determine representatives for collective bargaining, as guaranteed by Section 7-A of the National Industrial Recovery Act, had been denied to the workers.

"Employers want the men to bargain through company unions," he added. "If they do not recede from this demand there will be only the final course left."

AN ARBOR BREWING CO. PLACED ON UNFAIR LIST

Ann Arbor, Mich.—The Ann Arbor Trades and Labor Council adopted a resolution placing the Ann Arbor Brewing Company, makers of Old Tyme Brew, on organized labor's unfair list and urged union workers everywhere to refrain from purchasing the company's product.

Union officials said the managers of the concern expected to sell their product in other States, especially in Indiana, Pennsylvania and Ohio, and thus recruiting themselves in part for trade they had lost in Michigan because of their opposition to organized labor.